

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for ketalizing triacetoneamine, which comprises reacting triacetoneamine and a hydroxyl derivative having one or more hydroxyl groups with gaseous hydrogen ~~chlorides~~ chloride to yield the open-chain or cyclic triacetoneamine ketal.

Claim 2 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reacting is carried out in the presence of a solvent.

Claim 3 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the solvent is an acyclic hydrocarbon, a cyclic hydrocarbon, or an aromatic hydrocarbon.

Claim 4 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the solvent is heptane, cyclohexane, ethylcyclohexane, toluene or xylene.

Claim 5 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reacting is carried out at from 20°C to 150°C.

Claim 6 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reacting is carried out at from 50°C to 90°C.

Claim 7 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reacting forms water which is removed from the reaction mixture.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein triacetoneamine and a the hydroxyl derivative having one hydroxyl group are in a ratio of 1:2-8.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein triacetoneamine and a the hydroxyl derivative having one hydroxyl group are in a ratio of 1:2-4.

Claim 10 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hydroxyl derivative has at least two hydroxyl groups.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the triacetoneamine and a the hydroxyl derivative having at least two hydroxyl groups are in a ratio of 1:1-4.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the triacetoneamine and a the hydroxyl derivative having at least two hydroxyl groups are in a ratio of 1:1-2.

Claim 13 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hydroxyl derivatives are monohydric or polyhydric alcohols.

Claim 14 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the hydroxyl derivative is ethylene glycol or glycerol.

Claim 15 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises adding superstoichiometric amounts of hydrogen chloride.

Claim 16 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the reacting is carried out batchwise, and the gaseous hydrogen chloride is added subsequently.

Claim 17 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises neutralizing the reaction with an alkali metal alkoxide or alkaline earth metal alkoxide.

Claim 18 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the reaction mixture is neutralized with a powder or alcoholic form of sodium methoxide, sodium ethoxide, potassium methoxide or potassium ethoxide.

Claim 19 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out continuously.

Claim 20 (Original): A process for producing a polymer, comprising ketalizing triacetoneamine according to the process of claim 1, and adding the open-chain or cyclic triacetoneamine to a polymerization reaction.

Claim 21 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reacting is carried out with gaseous hydrogen chloride as the only catalyst.

Claim 22 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reacting is carried out to convert at least 80% by weight of the triacetoneamine to the open-chain or cyclic triacetoneamine ketal.